

REMARKS

This Request for Continuing Examination is responsive to the final Office Action dated August 13, 2003. Any charges associated with this should be charged to deposit account number 16-2480. The instant application is comprised of Claims 1 - 20. Claims 1 - 5 and 7 - 20 are pending in the instant application. Claim 6 was previously cancelled without prejudice. Claims 12 - 20 are withdrawn from consideration.

Prior to addressing the rejections, as a matter of review, the instant application relates to a laundry detergent composition which includes a stable, quick dissolving, free flowing cyclodextrin in a granular form to remove malodor from laundered items during the wash process. As claimed by Applicants, the cavities/pores of the cyclodextrin of the instant application remain essentially unfilled while the cyclodextrin is in solution. This allows the cyclodextrin to quickly absorb odor molecules. Furthermore, as claimed by Applicants, the cyclodextrin of the present invention has an odor loading factor of at least about 50. This means that 50% of the cyclodextrin's odor absorbing capacity is available at the point when the cyclodextrin is released into the wash solution during the laundry process.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Applicants respectfully traverse all rejections.

Claims 1 - 3 and 7 - 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,992,198 issued to Nebashi (hereinafter "Nebashi") for the reasons of record stated at page 3 of the Office Action.

Claims 1 - 3 and 7 - 9 are unobvious of Nebashi as Nebashi requires a perfume be incorporated into an inclusion compound. The inclusion compound could be B-cyclodextrin. [See Nebashi column 3 lines 15 - 32]. The cavities/pores of the cyclodextrin taught by Nebashi must be filled with perfume. In contrast, the cavities/pores of the cyclodextrin of the present invention remain essentially unfilled while the cyclodextrin is in solution. Thus, Nebashi teaches away from the present invention. Furthermore, Nebashi does not teach or suggest a cyclodextrin having an odor loading factor of at least about 50 at the time when the cyclodextrin is released into the wash solution during the wash process. Hence, as the present invention is unobvious over Nebashi, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection over Nebashi.

Claims 1 - 5 and 7 - 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 98/12298 published in the name of Surutzidis et al. (hereinafter "Surutzidis") for the reasons of record stated on page 3 of the Office Action.

Claims 1 - 5 and 7 - 10 of the instant invention may be distinguished from Surutzidis in that Surutzidis teaches *inter alia* a material (one example of which is cyclodextrin) which incorporates perfume into the cavities/pores of the material. [See page 1 and page 12 of Surutzidis]. Hence, the pores of the cyclodextrin taught by Surutzidis by necessity must be

filled with perfume. Furthermore, Surutzidis teaches that it is desirable for the perfume to be released slowly from the cavities/pores of the material in order to allow the material particles *"to be entrained in the fabrics with which they come in contact"*. [See Surutzidis page 13, last paragraph]. Surutzidis further teaches that it is not until the particles are established on the fabric surface that they begin to release their incorporated laundry agents. In order to do this the material particles are loaded with perfume and encapsulated/coated twice. [See Surutzidis pages 1, 5, and 10 - 12] Hence, Surutzidis teaches away from the present invention as the present invention is trying to achieve just the opposite effect of Surutzidis.

The present invention utilizes a cyclodextrin having cavities/pores that are essentially unfilled. As these pores are unfilled, this allows for the quick dissolution of the cyclodextrin particle and the absorption of odor molecules into the cyclodextrin. Furthermore, as the cyclodextrin of the current invention is quick dissolving, it will allow for the cyclodextrin to be washed away with the laundry wash water instead of depositing on or becoming entrained in the fabric. This is just the opposite of the teaching of Surutzidis.

Furthermore, the cyclodextrin of the present invention is in a granular form as it is believed that the granular form does not form complexes with actives in the detergent complexes. [See page 8 lines 20 - 30 of the instant application]. Surutzidis does not teach Applicants' specific cyclodextrin form (i.e.; does not teach cyclodextrin in granular form).

Yet further, Surutzidis does not teach or suggest a cyclodextrin having an odor loading factor of at least about 50 at the time when the cyclodextrin is released into the wash solution during the wash process.

Thus, as Surutzidis teaches away from the present invention and as Surutzidis does not teach the use of cyclodextrin granules, nor does Surutzidis teach a cyclodextrin having an odor loading factor of at least about 50, the present invention is unobvious over Surutzidis. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection over Surutzidis.

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Surutzidis as applied to Claims 1 - 10 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,853,430 issued to Shindo (hereinafter "Shindo") for the reasons of record stated on page 3 of the Office Action. The instant invention is unobvious over Surutzidis in view of Shindo for the same reasons discussed above. Hence, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection over Surutzidis in view of Shindo.

SUMMARY

This an RCE responsive to the final Office Action dated August 13, 2003. Please charge any fees associated with this to Deposit Account No.: 16-2480. As the rejections have been overcome, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections and allowance of the claims in the instant application. Please charge any fees associated with this to Deposit Account No.: 16-2480. No new matter is added.

Respectfully submitted,

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